



General Assembly

Forty-ninth Session

94th Meeting

Friday, 23 December 1994, 10 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Essy (Côte d'Ivoire)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Agenda item 154 (continued)

United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: draft resolution (A/49/L.44/Rev.2)

The President (*interpretation from French*): Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded its debate on agenda item 154 at its 88th plenary meeting, held on 14 December 1994.

As members know, following the recommendations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and of the Secretary-General relating to the need to establish a diversification fund for Africa's commodities within the framework of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, negotiations on this matter began during the forty-eighth session and continued during the present session. They gave rise to intense consultations among experts from Africa and from donor countries. To break the impasse that arose, I myself have conducted the consultations for the past week. After lengthy discussions, representatives of African countries and of donor countries, demonstrating a praiseworthy spirit of cooperation and a determination to find a constructive compromise, approved a consensus text that I had proposed.

That text relates particularly to paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/49/L.44/Rev.2. It reads as follows:

"Invites State participants in the African Development Fund existing within the African Development Bank to pay particular attention to the diversification of African commodities with a view to accelerating this process, and invites them to consider urgently making an initial adequate special contribution to finance the preparatory phase of commodity diversification projects and programmes in African countries". (A/49/L.44/Rev.2, para. 12)

As members know, the Organization's medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 gives high priority to African economic recovery and development — hence the special importance for African economies of the draft resolution now before the Assembly. Its adoption by consensus would certainly confirm the interest of the international community, and particularly of donor countries, in the question of the development of Africa. In that connection, it should be seen as a test of the real chances of success for the implementation of the New Agenda.

Finally, I wish sincerely to thank the various parties that during the consultations demonstrated true open-mindedness and political will in seeking a compromise acceptable to all, which made it possible for the consultations on paragraph 12 of the draft resolution to succeed.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/49/L.44/Rev.2.



May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.44/Rev.2?

Draft resolution A/49/L.44/Rev.2 was adopted (resolution 49/142).

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their positions.

May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Abdellah (Tunisia) (*interpretation from French*): We are pleased at the adoption today by consensus of draft resolution A/49/L.44/Rev.2, on the implementation of new financing arrangements for the preparatory phase of the diversification of Africa's commodities.

On behalf of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your tireless efforts and praiseworthy contribution to the reaching of consensus on this text.

We also congratulate our African colleagues and brothers and our partners from the developed countries on their constructive spirit, without which it would not have been possible for us to reach this conclusion on this vital issue which is so close to our hearts and on which negotiations have been dragging on for almost three years. Tunisia, having had the honour this year to continue these long and often difficult negotiations on behalf of the African countries, is particularly pleased at this favourable outcome, which opens up such promising possibilities.

The adoption of this text is a first step towards the effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. We have high hopes that the decision taken today will in the future be translated into concrete action for the implementation of United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, thus proving the international community's commitment to giving priority to Africa's economic recovery and development. Such support would make it possible for African countries, in a spirit of solidarity and partnership, to overcome their difficulties and confidently tackle the attainment of their legitimate aspirations to progress, development and well-being.

African countries depend on a small number of commodities for their earnings. They must therefore

diversify their production and exports so that their economies can withstand without great harm the impact of fluctuations in export prices and terms of trade. In this context, the diversification of African economies is regarded as one of the priorities of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

Accordingly, I wish to express once again our appreciation for the interest shown by our partners from the developed countries in contributing to the success of this African development endeavour. A developed Africa with the means to participate actively in international economic cooperation will be of great benefit to its trading partners.

For those reasons we appeal to the donor countries to see to it that the adoption of this resolution leads to generous contributions and clear support during the African Development Bank's consideration of this question, so that we can all honour our commitments and thus support the development efforts of the African countries.

Mr. Runge (Germany): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union, Austria, Finland and Sweden.

Let me first thank you, Mr. President, for your vigorous personal involvement in this complex issue.

We joined the consensus on the resolution just adopted by the Assembly. The text has been discussed very intensively, and in many aspects it reflects a consensus we can support.

We regret, however, that the text of operative paragraph 12 was presented to us at such a late date and that there was a lack of willingness to negotiate on it. It presents a number of difficulties for us. The negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the African Development Bank have not yet been concluded; indeed, they have reached a difficult phase. The text we adopt here must not be interpreted in a manner that prejudices the outcome of these negotiations. We believe that it is, in the first place, a matter of setting the right priorities at the African Development Bank to promote the financing of the preparatory phase of diversification projects. The European Union has made it clear in all discussions that existing mechanisms and financing should be relied upon to support diversification efforts and that the sense of urgency prevailing in this forum on this matter should be

reflected in the setting of priorities within the relevant body: the African Development Bank.

Our Governments will continue to approach the question of financing for diversification in the light of whether efforts are made by all concerned to use the existing resources. Our view on this issue also takes account of the fact that diversification of the commodity sector in African countries may not be primarily a question of providing financing for studies. Viable projects for diversification depend on an economic and administrative environment favourable to market-oriented initiatives from the private sector. Contributions to a bank will not in themselves elicit such projects. We also believe that it is not wise to set up new financing mechanisms or to make contributions to existing ones solely for political reasons.

We understand the African countries' appeal for support for their efforts, particularly in the field of diversification, and we support these efforts in a number of ways. We will continue to have special regard for African interests and needs in our efforts to facilitate access to existing resources and mechanisms.

Mr. Marrero (United States of America): The United States of America was pleased to join the consensus on the resolution on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. We especially appreciate the tireless efforts made by the delegation of Tunisia, in its representation of the chairmanship of the Organization of African Unity, to draw out the prime concerns of the African States and other delegations in order to design a resolution holding meaning, clear objectives and broad-based support.

The United States is a leading supporter of international efforts to assist the troubled economies of Africa. We regard this resolution as containing many positive elements. For example, we strongly support the resolution's call upon African countries to continue to take measures to improve the investment climate domestically in order to attract foreign investment. Similarly, we welcome the resolution's invitation to relevant multilateral institutions to give high priority to assistance for commodity diversification in Africa. Additionally, the United States looks forward to the Secretary-General's report, to be produced next year, on the implementation of this resolution, especially in regard to the activities of the Inter-agency Task Force for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

However, in joining the consensus on this text, we wish to underline our position on two important points: the idea of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities and the notion of convening a conference on African debt.

The United States believes that it is important to note that our understanding of operative paragraph 12 of the resolution we have before us acknowledges two important principles: first, that the States participants in the African Development Fund existing within the African Development Bank are uniquely competent to make the important decisions regarding the financial focus and the priorities of the Fund; and, secondly, that it is our understanding that the invitation to participant States to consider making an initial adequate special contribution to the Fund for Africa's commodity diversification is not intended to suggest that a separate fund should be established for this purpose. During the negotiation of this resolution, the United States expressed the view repeatedly that we consider it ill-advised to set up a new commodity diversification fund or its equivalent when suitable funding sources already exist that could be used for this purpose.

On the question of considering the convening of a conference on African debt, as mentioned in paragraph 9, the United States continues to oppose convening such a gathering. It is our view that international debt matters are best handled on a case-by-case basis through the international financial institutions and through the Paris Club. Many African countries have benefited substantially from this approach and will continue to do so, especially in the light of the recent Paris Club decision to seek to increase even further the response of creditor countries to the indebtedness of the poorest countries.

The United States will continue to work with other creditors and international financial institutions on strategies to reduce the debt burdens of African countries in the context of their economic and structural reforms. However, we do not believe that a United Nations conference on the subject would be at all helpful in this regard. Indeed, the Paris Club's recent deliberations have addressed precisely the concerns that any additional forum on debt issues might hope to take up.

We feel that it is important also to reiterate our position on the notion of

"agreed international targets of devoting 0.7 per cent of gross national product to official development assistance and 0.15 per cent to least-developed countries". (A/49/L.44/Rev.2, para. 10)

The United States is not among the States that have accepted such targets nor have we made commitments to reach them.

Finally, Mr. President, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to recognize your helpful, constructive involvement in the negotiation of this resolution. Through your timely intervention, you have exemplified again the spirit and benefit of patient dialogue and collective partnership. We thank you for affording us all one more opportunity to celebrate mutual agreement.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 154?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 8 (continued)

**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work:
Request for the inclusion of an additional item
submitted by the Secretary-General (A/49/240)**

The President (*interpretation from French*): In his note in document A/49/240, the Secretary-General, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, requests that an additional item, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan", be placed on the agenda of the forty-ninth session. Owing to the nature of this item, the Secretary-General further requests that the item be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly agrees that, under the circumstances described in the note by the Secretary-General, the provision of rule 40 of the rules of procedure that would require a meeting of the General Committee on the question of the inclusion and allocation of an additional item should be waived.

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that the General Assembly, on the proposal of the

Secretary-General, wishes to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Chairman of the Fifth Committee will be informed of the decision just taken.

I should like to inform members that this new item becomes item 162 of the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly and that the documents reflecting its inclusion and allocation will be issued tomorrow.

Agenda item 10 (continued)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization: draft resolution (A/49/L.63)

The President (*interpretation from French*): Members will recall that, at its 85th and 86th plenary meetings, on 12 December 1994, the Assembly held a debate on the financial situation of the United Nations.

Members will also recall that in the statement which I made at the conclusion of the debate on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization under item 10 of the General Assembly's agenda for its forty-ninth session, I indicated that I would continue my consultations on the question of the financial situation of the United Nations and would keep the Assembly fully informed of their outcome.

After intensive consultations, and in order to assist the Assembly on this important question, I have been able, in my capacity as President of the General Assembly, to submit the draft resolution which is now before the Assembly in document A/49/L.63. However, before the Assembly takes a decision on this draft resolution, which would establish a high-level open-ended working group, I should like to make the following comments concerning this working group.

On the basis of the informal consultations which I have undertaken with delegations on the financial situation of the Organization, we are all agreed that the high-level working group to be established will consider the questions raised both in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization and in

the statement made by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on 12 October 1994, as well as the views expressed by Member States in the general debate during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly and the views expressed by delegations during the debate on the financial situation of the United Nations that was held on an exceptional basis in plenary meetings of the Assembly on 12 December 1994.

In this connection, it appears from the views expressed by delegations that the measures which could ensure a viable financial base for the Organization relate, *inter alia*, to the following questions: the payment by Member States of their contributions in full and on time; the problem of arrears in the payment of contributions by Member States; the procedure for the approval of peace-keeping budgets and appropriations; the cash-flow situation of the Organization; and methods for calculating the scale of assessments.

It should, accordingly, be clearly understood that the mandate of the working group will be to consider any appropriate measure which could be introduced with a view to ensuring a sound and viable financial base for the Organization.

To that end, the working group will consider all the elements, without exception, and in particular those that I have just mentioned, which contribute to the difficult financial situation the Organization is experiencing. In addition, any other element which has a bearing on the situation and which is presented by any delegation will also be considered by the working group.

It is also understood that the working group will make every effort to reach the broadest possible measure of agreement on the results of its work.

With regard to the timetable for the working group, it would be desirable if the report on the progress achieved, which the working group is to submit before the end of the forty-ninth session could enable the General Assembly to take the appropriate measures in time to provide the Organization with a viable financial base commensurate with the challenges it will have to face after its fiftieth anniversary.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/49/L.63.

I call on the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Perfiliev (Director of the General Assembly Affairs Division) (*interpretation from French*): Under the terms of draft resolution A/49/L.63, the General Assembly would establish a high-level open-ended working group on the financial situation of the United Nations.

Substantive servicing for the group would be provided by the Department of Administration and Management. Secretariat services would be provided by the Department of Political Affairs. It is not anticipated that additional resources would be required in this connection.

As regards conference services, it is understood that the open-ended working group would hold approximately 36 meetings from January to September 1995. The meetings would require the provision of interpretation and documentation — 48 pages pre-session, 200 pages in-session, and 24 pages post-session — services in the six official languages of the Organization. The actual schedule of the meetings of the working group will be decided in consultation with the Office of Conference and Support Services.

Provision was made in the proposed programme budget not only for meetings programmed at that time but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings were consistent with the pattern in previous years. On that basis, it is assumed that conference-servicing requirements for the meetings of the working group would be met from within resources programmed under sub-section E of section 25, "Office of Conference and Support Services", of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/49/L.63, it is not anticipated that additional requirements would arise under section 25 of the programme budget for 1994-1995.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/49/L.63?

Draft resolution A/49/L.63 was adopted (resolution 49/143).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 10.

Introduction of reports of the Third Committee

The President (*interpretation from French*): We will now take up the reports of the Third Committee on items 12 and 93 through 103.

I invite the Rapporteur of the Third Committee to introduce the reports of the Third Committee in a single statement.

Mr. Lepeshko (Belarus), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: I have the honour to present the reports of the Third Committee on agenda items 12 and 93 through 103.

Under agenda item 12, "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the Third Committee recommends, in document A/49/603, paragraph 9, the adoption of two draft decisions.

Under agenda item 93, "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination", the Third Committee recommends, in document A/49/604, paragraph 19, the adoption of three draft resolutions, and in document A/49/604/Add.1, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 94, "Right of peoples to self-determination", the Third Committee recommends, in document A/49/752, paragraph 25, the adoption of four draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 95, "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family", the Third Committee recommends, in document A/49/605, paragraph 20, the adoption of four draft resolutions and, in paragraph 21, the adoption of one draft decision; in document A/49/605/Add.1 the Third Committee recommends, in paragraph 5, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 96, "Crime prevention and criminal justice", the Third Committee recommends, in document A/49/606, paragraph 25, the adoption of four draft resolutions and, in paragraph 26, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 97, "Advancement of women", the Third Committee recommends in document A/49/607, paragraph 37, the adoption of eight draft resolutions, and in paragraph 38 the adoption of two draft decisions. In paragraph 25 of that report, which relates to draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.70, entitled "Violence against

women migrant workers", Belgium should be included among the additional sponsors of the draft resolution.

Under agenda item 98, "International drug control", the Third Committee recommends in document A/49/608, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 99, "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", the Third Committee recommends in document A/49/609, paragraph 30, the adoption of six draft resolutions, and in paragraph 31 the adoption of one draft decision.

I turn next to agenda item 100, "Human rights questions: (a) Implementation of human rights instruments; (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms; (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives; (d) human rights questions: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action" and (e) "Capital punishment".

On sub-item (a) of item 100, in document A/49/610/Add.1, paragraph 23, the Third Committee recommends the adoption of four draft resolutions, and in paragraph 24 the adoption of one draft decision.

There are two corrections to document A/49/610/Add.2, concerning sub-item (b) of item 100. Paragraphs 36 and 37 should both relate to draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.41, not to draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.42: the reference to draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.42 at the end of paragraph 36 and in paragraph 37 should be replaced by a reference to draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.41. In paragraph 17 (a) and in the text of operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution IV, the oral revision should read: "in conformity with national legislation".

In document A/49/610/Add.2, paragraph 68, the Third Committee recommends the adoption of 17 draft resolutions, and in paragraph 69 the adoption of one draft decision.

On sub-item (c) of item 100, in document A/49/610/Add.3, paragraph 61, the Committee recommends the adoption of 12 draft resolutions, and in paragraph 62 the adoption of one draft decision. In

paragraph 52, relating to draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.62, "Situation of human rights in Rwanda", Argentina should be listed among the additional sponsors of the draft resolution.

With respect to sub-item (d) of item 100, in document A/49/610/Add.4, paragraph 14, the Third Committee recommends the adoption of one draft resolution, and in paragraph 15 the adoption of two draft decisions.

Document A/49/610/Add.5 contains an account of the Third Committee's consideration of agenda sub-item (e) of item 100, "Capital punishment". There are no recommendations contained in the report to the General Assembly under that sub-item.

Under agenda item 101, "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", the Third Committee recommends, in document A/49/611, paragraph 26, the adoption of four draft resolutions. In paragraph 20 of the report, which relates to draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.23, entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child", the following countries should be listed among the additional sponsors: Belgium, Bhutan, Cambodia, Guinea, Jordan and Suriname.

Under agenda item 102, "Preparation for and organization of the United Nations Year for Tolerance", the Third Committee recommends, in document A/49/612, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 103, "Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People", the Third Committee recommends in document A/49/613, paragraph 5, the adoption of one draft decision; in document A/49/613/Add.1, paragraph 10, the Committee recommends the adoption of one draft resolution, and in paragraph 11 the adoption of one draft decision.

In connection with the dates and numbers of the meetings at which the Third Committee considered agenda item 100 and its sub-items, it was not always possible at each meeting to separate statements made under the various sub-items. Therefore, for the sake of consistency, in each report of the Committee relating to item 100 — documents A/49/610/Addenda 1 to 5 — paragraphs where dates and numbers of meetings are indicated should be revised as follows:

The relevant paragraphs of documents A/49/610/Addenda 1 to 5 should be replaced with the following text:

"The Committee considered item 100 and its sub-items at its 33rd, 34th, 36th to 48th, 50th, 53rd, 55th to 57th and 59th to 67th meetings, on 16, 17, 21 to 23, 25, 28 to 30 November and 1, 5 to 10 and 12 to 14 December 1994. An account of the Committee's discussions is contained in the relevant summary records: A/C.3/49/SR.33, 34, 36 to 48, 50, 53, 55 to 57, and 59 to 67".

In paragraph 7 of document A/49/610/Add.1, the word "existed" should be replaced by the word "revised".

The President (*interpretation from French*): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Third Committee that are before it today.

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Third Committee have been made in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the General Assembly agreed that

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Third Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we

are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as in the Committee, except in those cases where delegations have already notified the Secretariat that they wish to do otherwise. This means that where recorded or separate votes were taken, we will do the same. I also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Third Committee.

Agenda item 93

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination: report of the Third Committee (Parts I and II) (A/49/604 and Add.1)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 19 of part I of its report (A/49/604).

Draft resolution I is entitled "Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/144).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination".

Draft resolution II was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/145).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution III is entitled "Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/146).

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution

recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 8 of part II of its report (A/49/604/Add.1).

The draft resolution, entitled "Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/147).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 93?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 94

Right of peoples to self-determination: report of the Third Committee (A/49/752)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 25 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/148).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile,

China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Israel, United States of America

Abstaining: Argentina, Costa Rica, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Uruguay

Draft resolution II was adopted by 147 votes to 2, with 19 abstentions (resolution 49/149).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution III is entitled "Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape

Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey

Draft resolution III was adopted by 118 votes to 19, with 33 abstentions (resolution 49/150).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IV is entitled "Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: France, Israel, Monaco, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 113 votes to 5, with 51 abstentions (resolution 49/151).

The President (*interpretation from French*): I now call on the representative of the Republic of Korea, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. Kwang Jae Lee (Republic of Korea): After careful reconsideration, the Republic of Korea delegation voted in favour of draft resolution II.

Our policy of principle with respect to the situation in the Middle East is that a just and lasting peace should be achieved in the region. To attain such a necessary goal, the current peace process must proceed with the full participation of the parties concerned and with the support of the international community, and we must ensure that nothing — no words or actions — interrupts or hampers this peace process. It was for this reason that my delegation abstained in the voting during the Third Committee's session.

Understanding that the resolution reaffirms what must be ensured as a matter of principle — the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination — and hoping that recognition of that right will have a positive effect on the current peace process, the Republic of Korea delegation voted in favour of draft resolution II.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 94?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 95 (continued)

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family: report of the Third Committee (Parts I and II) (A/49/605 and Add.1)

The President (*interpretation from French*): We shall first consider part I of the report of the Third Committee (A/49/605).

The Assembly will now take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 20 of part I of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 21.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "International Youth Year".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/152).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and of the Long-Term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/153).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution III is entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/154).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IV is entitled "The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 49/155).

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 21 of part I of its report.

The draft decision, entitled "Document considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family", was adopted by the Third Committee. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We shall now consider part II of the report of the Third Committee (A/49/605/Add.1).

The Assembly has before it the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report. The draft decision is entitled "Provisional rules of procedure for the World Summit for Social Development".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 95?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 96

Crime prevention and criminal justice: report of the Third Committee (A/49/606)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 25 of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 26.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/156).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders".

I call on the representative of Bahrain on a point of order.

Mr. Al-Dosari (Bahrain): I wish to inform the General Assembly that my delegation has become a sponsor of draft resolution II, entitled "Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders" and contained in document A/49/606.

The President (interpretation from French): I should like to inform delegations that corrections to lists of sponsors in reports should be given to the Rapporteur of the Committee or to the Secretariat. They will see that those corrections are made.

Draft resolution II was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/157).

The President (interpretation from French): Draft resolution III is entitled "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/158).

The President (interpretation from French): Draft resolution IV is entitled "Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 49/159).

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 26 of its report.

The draft decision is entitled "Document considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of crime prevention and criminal justice".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (interpretation from French): I now call on the representative of the United Kingdom who wishes to make a statement in explanation of position.

Mr. Vaughn-Fenn (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom joined the consensus on the resolution entitled "Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime", despite substantial reservations of a technical and procedural nature, because it did not wish to mute the resolution's political message - namely, that the General Assembly welcomes the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime. That is a message which the United Kingdom wholeheartedly endorses.

But the United Kingdom does not believe that a conference on a specific sector of United Nations-related activity, even one convened at ministerial level, is able to determine the relative priority of that activity when set against all other aspects of the work of the United Nations.

The General Assembly is equipped to do this, but the United Kingdom would like to place it on record that, despite our delegation's efforts to stimulate discussion on those aspects of this text that attempt to address issues of budgetary prioritization, no opportunity to comment upon the draft was forthcoming.

The United Kingdom accordingly reserves the right to revisit these questions at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic and Social Council and, if necessary, the General Assembly.

The President (interpretation from French): We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to conclude its consideration of agenda item 96?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 97

Advancement of women: report of the Third Committee (A/49/607)

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly has before it eight draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 37

of its report, and two draft decisions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 38.

I shall put the eight draft resolutions and the two draft decisions to the Assembly one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have an opportunity to explain their positions.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/160).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/161).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution III is entitled "Integration of older women in development".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/162).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IV is entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 49/163).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution V is entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 49/164).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VI is entitled "Violence against women migrant workers".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 49/165).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VII is entitled "Traffic in women and girls".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VII without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 49/166).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 49/167).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn next to the two draft decisions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 38 of its report.

Draft decision I is entitled "Consideration of the request for the revision of article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women".

The Third Committee adopted draft decision I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft decision II, entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the advancement of women", was adopted by the Third Committee. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 97?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 98

International drug control: report of the Third Committee (A/49/608)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 9 of its report (A/49/608).

The draft resolution is entitled "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking".

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/168).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 98?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 99

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions: report of the Third Committee (A/49/609)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take action on the six draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 30 of its report (A/49/609) and on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 31.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

Draft resolution I was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/169).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "New international humanitarian order".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/170).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution III, entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt draft resolution III?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/171).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IV, entitled "Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 49/172).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution V, entitled "Comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and related migratory movements", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 49/173).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VI, entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 49/174).

The President (*interpretation from French*): The General Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 31 of its report.

The draft decision, entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the question of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", was adopted by the Third Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly also wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call now on those representatives who wish to make statements in explanation of position.

Mr. Kuehl (United States of America): I would like to explain the position of my Government on draft resolution VI, entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa", which the General Assembly has just adopted.

The United States appreciates the difficulty of drafting language which encompasses the vast and diverse issues surrounding refugee flows in Africa. It is for that very reason that we have in past years questioned both the inclusiveness and the accuracy of the way in which this perennial draft resolution purports to address the refugee situation in Africa. We look forward to working with the sponsors and supporters of next year's draft resolution on this item during the preliminary drafting stages at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. We encourage other interested parties to join us in this effort so that we can collectively, in a spirit of good will and cooperation, develop a meaningful text that reflects the current situation of all refugees in Africa.

To facilitate our work in this regard, we may want to avail ourselves of the annual session of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the collective

wisdom and experience of the experts on refugees, who attend that session, to discuss the possible elements of a draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its next session.

Ms. Fertekligil (Turkey) (*interpretation from French*): With respect to draft resolution I, "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", which has just been adopted, my delegation wants to stress that Turkey considers the provision of temporary protection to be an activity that falls within the sole purview and national jurisdiction of the competent authorities of the receiving country. We believe that such protection can be granted only on an *ad hoc* basis following consideration of the particular circumstances of each individual.

It is with that reservation that Turkey takes note of the definition of temporary protection included in the conclusions with respect to international protection that are contained in the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its forty-fifth session.

I wish also to stress that this Executive Committee document cannot in any way prejudice Turkey's reservations with respect to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 99?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 100

Human rights questions: report of the Third Committee (Part I) (A/49/610)

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that the Assembly wishes to take note of part I of the report of the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

**(a) Implementation of human rights instruments:
report of the Third Committee (Part II)
(A/49/610/Add.1)**

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 23 of part II of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 24.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/175).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/176).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution III is entitled "Report of the Committee against Torture and status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment".

Draft resolution III was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/177).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IV, entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 49/178).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn now to the draft decision, entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the item entitled 'Human rights questions: (a) Implementation of human rights instruments'".

This draft decision, contained in paragraph 24 of the report, was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 100?

It was so decided.

**(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms:
report of the Third Committee (Part III)
(A/49/610/Add.2)**

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes before the voting.

Mrs. Feng Cui (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): The Chinese delegation will abstain in the voting on draft resolution XII in document A/49/610/Add.2, entitled "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization". Our position is based on the following considerations:

We do not deny that under some special circumstances the United Nations, at the request of the countries concerned, can play a certain role in providing technical assistance in connection with elections held in those countries. We are also aware of and fully understand the desire of some countries for assistance of this kind to be provided by the United Nations.

However, we have always held that elections are internal affairs of the State. In accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, it is beyond the purview of the United Nations to interfere in the internal electoral affairs of Member States. But the draft resolution sponsored by the United States and other

countries is aimed at actively involving the United Nations in the whole electoral process — before, during and after elections — as well as in the so-called democratization process. Furthermore, the draft resolution seeks to establish a link between the United Nations and agencies that have no such authorization. This is not in keeping with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Therefore, we cannot support the draft resolution.

Mr. Gervais (Côte d'Ivoire) (*interpretation from French*): I would like to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 24 of document A/49/610/Add.2, which relates to draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.39 — what is now draft resolution VI.

During our discussions of this draft resolution in the Third Committee, it was understood that the French wording of the title would be "*Décennie des Nations Unies pour l'éducation dans le domaine des droits de l'homme*". All the other language versions use the word "education" in the title. Indeed, consensus was reached in the Third Committee that the word *éducation* would be used, and not *enseignement*. We wish to point out that the word *enseignement* would limit the action we have in mind, which indeed is education.

Mr. Fernández Palacios (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Draft resolution XII in document A/49/610/Add.2, entitled "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization", continues to stray quite notably from the norms established by Member States in connection with electoral assistance. Cuba reiterates that national electoral processes fall strictly within the domestic jurisdiction of States and are a fundamental expression of their political sovereignty. That is why Cuba also reaffirms that it is up to peoples to determine the methods and establish the appropriate institutions for their electoral processes, in conformity with their Constitutions and national legislation.

We would also repeat that, despite what draft resolution XII implies, there does not exist, any universal need for the United Nations to give electoral assistance to Member States; this can be done only in very specific circumstances and only at the express request of a sovereign State. These exceptional cases, however, can in no way form the basis for a general principle underlying action by the United Nations and Member States.

None the less, draft resolution XII seems to condition the legitimacy of national electoral processes on an

evaluation made by the United Nations and subordinates the extension of electoral assistance to the results of that evaluation. This makes national institutions and indigenous political practices subject to norms and models that are allegedly universal and disregards the diversity of political systems, cultures and traditions of the States Members of this Organization.

But, above and beyond this intention, draft resolution XII includes new provisions that would distort and disregard the mandates of certain bodies of the United Nations, with the aim of involving them in tasks that are alien to their proper functions. At the same time, the aim is to extend electoral assistance at the pre- and post-electoral stages on the pretext of consolidating democracy, while in what is involved is legitimizing interference in the domestic affairs of States.

In this context, we are also concerned over the recent administrative decision taken by the Secretariat, without consultations and in violation of provisions established in many General Assembly resolutions, to transfer the newly named Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. This decision has serious political and administrative consequences and must be corrected as swiftly as possible.

For all those reasons, Cuba cannot vote in favour of draft resolution XII.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote before the voting. The Assembly has before it 17 draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 68 of part III of its report (A/49/610/Add.2) and one draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 69.

I shall put the draft resolutions and the draft decision to the Assembly one by one. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their vote or position.

We first turn to draft resolution I, entitled "Human rights and extreme poverty".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/179).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan

Abstaining: Bolivia, Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Fiji, Georgia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Draft resolution II was adopted by 97 votes to 57, with 14 abstentions (resolution 49/180).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution III is entitled "Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/181).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IV is entitled "Respect for the universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Israel, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji,

Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 88 votes to 5, with 70 abstentions (resolution 49/182).

The President (interpretation from French): Draft resolution V is entitled "Right to Development".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution V without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 49/183).

The President (interpretation from French): Draft resolution VI is entitled "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 49/184).

The President (interpretation from French): Draft resolution VII is entitled "Human rights and terrorism".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VII without a vote. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to do likewise?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 49/185).

The President (interpretation from French): Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 110 votes to 35, with 24 abstentions (resolution 49/186).

The President (interpretation from French): Draft resolution IX is entitled "Development of public information activities in the field of human rights".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IX without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 49/187).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution X is entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution X without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution X was adopted (resolution 49/188).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution XI is entitled "Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XI was adopted (resolution 49/189).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution XII is entitled "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar,

Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia

Against: Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Abstaining: China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution XII was adopted by 155 votes to 1, with 12 abstentions (resolution 49/190).

[Subsequently, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran advised the Secretariat that it had intended not to participate in the voting.]

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution XIII is entitled "Summary or arbitrary executions".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XIII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XIII was adopted (resolution 49/191).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution XIV is entitled "Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XIV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution XIV was adopted (resolution 49/192).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution XV is entitled "Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XV was adopted (resolution 49/193).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution XVI is entitled "Strengthening of the rule of law".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XVI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution XVI was adopted (resolution 49/194).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution XVII is entitled "Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XVII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XVII was adopted (resolution 49/195).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn now to the draft decision in paragraph 69 of part III of the report entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

The draft decision was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. Sreenivasan (India): My delegation has gladly joined the consensus on draft resolution VII, entitled

"Human rights and terrorism", since it addresses a concern that India has repeatedly voiced at the United Nations.

We are gratified that the international community has endorsed our view that the violation, indeed the destruction, of human rights, particularly the right to life of innocent and law-abiding citizens by terrorists on any pretext should be condemned, and that global measures should be taken not only to combat terrorism but also to provide succour to the victims of terrorism.

The present resolution, together with the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism that the Assembly adopted earlier this year, marks a significant step towards the formulation of a comprehensive international convention on terrorism that India has called for.

Our position stands vindicated. As a nation that has been a victim of terrorism from across the border, India is acutely aware of the devastation that terrorism can cause not only to life and property but also to the very institutions established to protect and promote the human rights of citizens.

The policy of some States which minimize the gravity of terrorist acts by treating them as less serious than actions of States that violate human rights is perplexing to us. States, by their very nature, have legal and constitutional restraints on them, while the terrorists are a law unto themselves, and they engage in the most heinous of crimes, which deserve strong condemnation.

Addressing the Security Council in January 1992, the Prime Minister of India, Mr. P. V. Narashima Rao, said:

"...we cannot countenance a situation where all human rights are reserved only for the practitioners of terrorism, while Governments dealing with this menace are arraigned day and night on grounds of violation of human rights — real or imaginary, mostly the latter." (*S/PV.3046, p. 98*)

In this year's resolution on human rights and terrorism the obligation of the international community to assist the victims of terrorism has been recognized. The leader of the Indian delegation to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session specifically suggested this during the general debate. He said:

"The international community must also provide the necessary succour to the victims of terrorism, whose numbers are swelling by the day." (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Plenary Meetings, 14th meeting, p. 16*)

We hope that the voluntary fund proposed in the resolution will be set up promptly. Similarly, we hope that the relevant human rights machinery of the United Nations will gear itself to tackle the toxin of terrorism. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, who has the mandate to protect and promote all human rights, will do well to include a strategy against terrorism in his programme of action.

Mr. Rezvani (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation is of the view that certain elements of draft resolution XII, entitled "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization" and contained in document A/49/610/Add.2, are not consistent with the practices or the Charter of the United Nations. Therefore, we chose — I repeat, we chose — not to participate in the voting on the draft resolution.

My country adheres to the principle of periodic and genuine elections, and, in accordance with the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the affairs of the country must be administered on the basis of public votes, through the election of the President, representatives of the Consultative Assembly and members of the Council, or through referendums on certain important economic, cultural and political issues. In practice, since the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979, 21 presidential and parliamentary elections have been held in the country, with the participation of a majority of the population.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

May I take it that it is now the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 100?

It was so decided.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives: report of the Third Committee (Part IV) (A/49/610/Add.3)

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call on the representative of Cuba, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. Fernández Palacios (Cuba) (*interpretation from Spanish*): In a few minutes the General Assembly will be concluding an exercise that, besides being selective and discriminatory, is one of the greatest injustices in the recent history of this Organization and an inexcusable concession to the use of force by a great Power in its unrelenting attempt to bring a small country to its knees. Draft resolution V, introduced by the United States and entitled "Situation of human rights in Cuba" — like the similar draft resolutions introduced in the past — is one more act of aggression in the context of that country's hostile policy towards mine.

The Government of the United States, instigator of the farce that has led to this situation, is utterly lacking in the political or moral authority to set itself up as the arbiter of human rights in Cuba — not only because it is an inveterate violator of those rights in its own territory or because it has historically supported the most repressive regimes since the Second World War, but also, and most particularly, because through its policy and through the genocidal blockade it keeps in place against my country is massively, flagrantly and systematically violating the human rights of 11 million Cubans.

Cuba, which has done so much to guarantee the human rights of its people within a broader concept of freedom and social justice and which has shown great solidarity with others in their suffering, does not consider itself accused or on trial here. It will move forward in its historic endeavour of independence and national dignity and will continue to develop its policy of opening up to the world. It will continue to make those changes required by its sovereignty and the will of its people, and it will maintain constant cooperation with the United Nations on the basis of the principles of universality, impartiality and non-selectivity. It will never tire of rejecting and denouncing, time and time again, as often as is necessary, the kind of ploy we are witnessing today; nor will it ever accept a major Power's interference with the independence and sovereignty of its people.

For all those reasons, Cuba will vote against draft resolution V contained in document A/49/610/Add.3.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote before the voting.

The Assembly has before it 12 draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 61 of part IV of its report (A/49/610/Add.3) and the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 62.

I shall put the 12 draft resolutions and the draft decision to the vote one by one. After all decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their votes.

We turn first to draft resolution I, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)".

I shall first put to the vote operative paragraph 2, on which a separate, recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal,

Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen

Against: Russian Federation

Abstaining: Angola, Belarus, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Myanmar, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution I was adopted by 144 votes to 1, with 14 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now put to the vote operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution I, on which a separate, recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland,

Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen

Against: Russian Federation

Abstaining: Angola, Belarus, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Togo, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution I was adopted by 140 votes to 1, with 17 abstentions.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now put to the vote draft resolution I as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen

Against: None

Abstaining: Angola, Belarus, Cameroon, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, India, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution I as a whole was adopted by 150 votes to none, with 14 abstentions (resolution 49/196).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution II is entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/197).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn next to draft resolution III, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Sudan".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore,

Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Afghanistan, China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam

Abstaining: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates

Draft resolution III was adopted by 101 votes to 13, with 49 abstentions (resolution 49/198).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IV is entitled "Situation of human rights in Cambodia".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 49/199).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn now to draft resolution V, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cuba". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall

Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay

Against: Angola, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Namibia, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela

Draft resolution V was adopted by 65 votes to 23, with 70 abstentions (resolution 49/200).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VI is entitled "Human rights in Haiti".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution VI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 49/201).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VII is entitled "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Zambia

Against: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam

Abstaining: Albania, Angola, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Swaziland, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 74 votes to 25, with 55 abstentions (resolution 49/202).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Situation of human rights in Iraq". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zambia

Against: Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sudan

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 114 votes to 3, with 47 abstentions (resolution 49/203).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn now to draft resolution IX, entitled "Situation of human rights in Kosovo".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan

Against: India, Russian Federation

Abstaining: Angola, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Draft resolution IX was adopted by 114 votes to 2, with 40 abstentions (resolution 49/204).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution X is entitled "Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution X without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution X was adopted (resolution 49/205).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution XI is entitled "Situation of human rights in Rwanda".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XI without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XI was adopted (resolution 49/206).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution XII is entitled "Situation of human rights in Afghanistan".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution XII without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XII was adopted (resolution 49/207).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn now to the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 62 of part IV of its report (A/49/610/Add.3).

The draft decision is entitled "Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives". May I consider that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. Pereira (Cape Verde): My explanation of vote concerns draft resolution VII; on the situation of human rights in Iran. Cape Verde voted in favour of the draft resolution, but we would like to express our disappointment at the way in which it and other draft resolutions relating to items before the Third Committee were handled: private and restricted discussions, personal contacts and, finally, *faits accomplis*.

The resolution on the situation of human rights in Iran could, in fact, be more balanced in its emphasis and wording, reflecting in a more complete way the conditionalities and nuances reported by the Special Representative in his report. It could have been the product of a broader scope of opinions and approaches - but this could have been possible only with more transparent, extensive and participative consultations.

Finally, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, we believe that if it is to fulfil the basic principles which assist the promotion, implementation and protection of human rights world-wide, the General Assembly will have to be able to address with similar vigour and determination other cases of violations of human rights in other parts of the world that are of the same nature and gravity as the classic cases which have been addressed by the Third Committee.

Mrs. Feng Cui (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): My statement concerns draft resolution IX, entitled "Situation of human rights in Kosovo".

The Chinese delegation has always opposed the consideration under the agenda item on national human rights of questions concerning a particular region of the territory of a State. Kosovo is an integral part of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, whose sovereignty and territorial integrity as a sovereign State should be respected. The General Assembly's resolutions should be in stricter conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and should respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On the basis of those considerations, the Chinese delegation could not vote in favour of draft resolution IX, just adopted. We therefore abstained in the voting.

Mr. Sutoyo (Indonesia): My delegation wishes to explain its vote on draft resolution IX, on which action was taken a few minutes ago.

My delegation joined others in voting in favour of that draft resolution, entitled "Situation of human rights in Kosovo", because it too is concerned at the deplorable human rights situation in that part of the world. That situation should be corrected.

However, my delegation also wishes to place on record its reservations concerning the title of the resolution, which is directed not at the general or national human rights situation in a country, but, rather, at a territorial part

of a country. My delegation is therefore concerned that if draft resolutions are presented in this way in the future there could be a vast increase in the number of draft resolutions considered by the Assembly.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

I call on the representative of Rwanda, who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. Bakuramutsa (Rwanda) (*interpretation from French*): Allow me to express my profound thanks to you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to speak on draft resolution XI on the situation of human rights in Rwanda.

The Rwandese delegation wishes first to thank those countries that have been good enough to show their interest in the human rights situation in Rwanda, even if we must regret that this gesture has come a bit late, following the death of 1 million people during the civil war.

In the specific context of human rights in my country, my delegation must point out that the national coalition Government established on 19 July 1994 has faced the following obstacles.

Many criminals who committed or encouraged genocide did not flee; they took shelter in the south-west security zone during Operation Turquoise. This made for precarious security within the country. The Government of Rwanda has inherited a country that has been destroyed, looted, drained and deeply traumatized by genocide and other massacres.

The judicial institutions of the country have been decimated, which makes it difficult for the new Government to carry out its task of rendering justice; for there is a dire shortage of magistrates and adequate legal structures.

Nevertheless, although it is only five months old, my Government has the following achievements to its credit.

On the political level, the country is being governed by a broad-based Government of national unity reflecting all the political trends in the nation. All sectors of society are integrated in the various national institutions, with the exception of the sectors implicated in the genocide.

On the military level, more than 2,500 soldiers from the former Government forces have been incorporated into the Rwandese Patriotic Army.

On the administrative level, we have set up a territorial administration which favours national reconciliation, as is shown by the fact that all but one of the civil prefects have been appointed and two prefects of the former regime have been reinstated.

In the economic, administrative and social spheres, various obstacles have been put in the path of the national coalition Government's efforts, the absence or shortage of the necessary resources and personnel is impeding progress.

As for training and information, at major rallies regularly held throughout the country, the President of the Republic, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister are calling for reconciliation and peace.

On the question of national representation, the recently established National Assembly consists of the representatives of all sectors of our society, including the army.

Despite the lack of resources, the Government is defending human rights and ensuring their strict observance — unlike the sinister advocates and perpetrators of genocide, with whose adventures the international community is very familiar. As for strict compliance with human rights, my Government deserves not harsh criticism but, rather, economic, technical and material assistance and moral support for our good intentions, to enable us to carry out the policy we have decided on: to the establishment of a State of law on the basis of universal respect for human rights.

My delegation believes that if a country wishes to have a resolution adopted that it deems useful for another country, the latter should of course be associated in the drafting of that resolution. My delegation has the right to speak freely on a sensitive subject like human rights, and I therefore have the right to express regret that we were not closely associated from the very outset in the drafting of the text of the draft resolution concerning my country. It is true that operative paragraphs 7 and 8 were slightly amended upon the request of my delegation, which sought to have the resolution make it clear that the policies of the new Rwandese administration were far removed from any planned violation of human rights.

We had intended to make this clarification on the human rights situation in Rwanda in the Third Committee on 14 December 1994. It is highly regrettable that on that day pressure was exerted on the delegation of Rwanda and on the representative who had been authorized to make such a statement, and he was obliged to keep silent.

The national coalition Government, only five months old, has inherited a looted, ravaged and drained country, with a decimated population and with all the vital sectors of the State in need of reconstruction. We hope that the international community will be more understanding towards the Government of Rwanda. All we are asking for is help to help ourselves.

Again I thank the countries that are kind enough to support Rwanda in its efforts to resolve its situation.

We associated ourselves with the consensus on this draft resolution, but we wished to make this clarification.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call on the representative of Pakistan, who wishes to make a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): A short while ago, the Indian representative, in an explanation of vote on the draft resolution concerning human rights and terrorism, gave some very skewed justification.

I should like to point out at the outset that in any case India should not have explained its vote, because it was a sponsor of that draft resolution.

But I wish to point out something else. The representative of India, in his so-called explanation of vote on the draft resolution concerning human rights and terrorism, tried to project India as an innocent victim of terrorism. By innuendo, he tried to give the impression that India was the victim of terrorism from across the border. I do concede that the people of the Indian Union are victims of terrorism — but not from across the border; they are victims of terrorism from within India, the terrorism unleashed by the Indian security forces in all parts of India.

Pakistan does not want to dilate on this point. We are concerned only with the distortion of the resolution on human rights and terrorism and its use by India in the context of the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir. The main sponsor of the resolution, Turkey, in its statement before action was taken on the draft resolution in the

Third Committee, clearly indicated that the draft resolution did not militate against the right of peoples under alien domination and foreign occupation to self-determination. Pakistan also believes that the resolution on human rights and terrorism is without prejudice to the struggle of peoples under alien domination and foreign occupation for the exercise of their right to self-determination.

Finally, the indigenous struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the exercise of their right to self-determination cannot be characterized as "terrorism". Those who are suppressing that right of the Kashmiri people are guilty of State terrorism.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 100?

It was so decided.

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action: report of the Third Committee (Part V) (A/49/610/Add.4)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 14 of its report and on the two draft decisions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 15.

We turn first to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 14 of part V of the report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/208).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn now to the two draft decisions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 15 of part V of the report.

Draft decision I is entitled "Increased coordination within the United Nations system in the field of human rights".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision I?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft decision II is entitled "Human rights questions: Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have concluded this stage of our consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 100.

(e) Capital punishment: report of the Third Committee (Part VI) (A/49/610/Add.5)

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of part VI of the report of the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 100?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 101

Promotion and protection of the rights of children: report of the Third Committee (A/49/611)

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their positions before action is taken.

Mr. Kuehl (United States of America): My delegation will join the plenary consensus on draft resolution II, entitled "Need to adopt efficient international measures for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography", despite the fact that it contains an inaccurate and misleading reference to the sale of children's organs. My delegation attempted to delete this

reference by amendment during the Third Committee's consideration of this draft. The amendment failed, but my delegation joined the consensus on the Committee draft we have before us.

The United States Government strongly objects to the inclusion in future resolutions of the United Nations of wording regarding the sale of children's organs.

If such a practice could be proved to exist, the United States Government would condemn it in the strongest terms. Fortunately for all children, no credible evidence has been found to support these references. My delegation, both here and in the Commission on Human Rights, has repeatedly asked for such evidence from Governments and from non-governmental organizations, and no one has been able to provide it.

In October of this year, the report of Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn, the Special Rapporteur on child prostitution, child pornography and the sale of children, was issued. The Special Rapporteur praises the safeguards the United States carries out to prevent these practices. He notes in his report that he was unable to find credible evidence that even one instance of the sale of a child for the harvesting of organs had occurred. On the contrary, Mr. Muntarbhorn reported that innocent civilians had been assaulted owing to

"unfounded rumours concerning the trafficking of children for organ transplantation." (A/49/478, para. 84)

Specifically, the Special Rapporteur reports that in one instance during the past year a United States citizen was brutally beaten by a mob in Central America when it was falsely alleged that she was kidnapping children in order to harvest their organs for sale. She remains in a coma almost eight months after the attack.

By adopting a draft resolution containing this reference, the United Nations is giving credence to unfounded rumours which demonstrably have resulted in vicious attacks on individuals. To fuel the fire of speculation, fear and rumour is the height of irresponsibility and is a misuse of this important body.

We urge the sponsors of this draft resolution to give the most careful thought to this issue if it is addressed again, either at the forthcoming session of the Commission on Human Rights or at a future session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Sutoyo (Indonesia): in the General Assembly my delegation will be joining in the adoption, without a vote, of draft resolution III, entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child", just as our delegation did in the Third Committee.

However, my delegation maintains its position as expressed in the Third Committee before the Committee took action on the draft resolution, particularly as concerns the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the number of its annual sessions. In this respect, my delegation wishes to put on record its reservations with regard to the recommendation in operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution to increase to three the number of annual sessions of the Committee.

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now take decisions on the four draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 26 of its report (A/49/611).

We first turn to draft resolution I, entitled "Protection of children affected by armed conflicts".

Draft resolution I was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/209).

The President (interpretation from French): Draft resolution II is entitled "Need to adopt efficient international measures for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/210).

The President (interpretation from French): Draft resolution III is entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 49/211).

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft resolution IV is entitled "The plight of street children".

The Third Committee adopted draft resolution IV without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 49/212).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 101?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 102

Preparation for and organization of the United Nations Year for Tolerance: report of the Third Committee (A/49/612)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The draft resolution, entitled "United Nations Year for Tolerance", was adopted by the Third Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/213).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 102?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 103 (continued)

Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People: report of the Third Committee (Part II) (A/49/613/Add.1)

The President (*interpretation from French*): Members will recall that the Assembly took action on part I of the report (A/49/613) of the Third Committee at its 52nd meeting, on 7 November.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee in

paragraph 10 of part II of its report (A/49/613/Add.1) and the draft decision recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 11.

We turn first to the draft resolution, entitled "International Decade of the World's Indigenous People".

The Third Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/214).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We now turn to the draft decision, entitled "United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations".

The draft decision was adopted by the Third Committee. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call on the representative of Brazil, who wishes to speak in explanation of position.

Mr. Carvalho (Brazil): My delegation deeply regrets that it was not in a position to co-sponsor the draft resolution just adopted on the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, as it did with a similar draft resolution when this question was considered at the last session of the General Assembly.

We joined the consensus on the draft resolution just adopted because Brazil remains fully committed to the goals of the Decade, set forth in General Assembly resolution 48/163. Although many of our concerns have been met in the final text, we maintain reservations on some of its language, in particular operative paragraphs 5 and 13 (b).

The delegation of Brazil has consistently maintained that the reference made to the "draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples" (*resolution 49/214, para. 5*) — in the plural form suggested by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — tends to prejudice important decisions still to be taken by other

bodies of the United Nations on this highly complex and controversial issue. It is our understanding that the use of the expression "indigenous peoples", in the plural form, in the text of the resolution is not to be construed as having any consequence for further consideration of the matter nor any implication related to possible rights to be attributed to this terminology in international law.

We would have preferred, therefore, that this resolution properly reflect the consensus formulations contained in previous texts, in particular that of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

Moreover, it is our understanding that the expression "appropriate channels" in paragraph 13 (b) of resolution 49/214 means the governmental channels through which all United Nations representatives must guide their conduct when contacting indigenous people in Brazil for the purposes of the Decade and, in particular, the planning and implementation of projects affecting them.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the only speaker in explanations of position after action has been taken.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 103?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 12 (continued)

Report of the Economic and Social Council: report of the Third Committee (A/49/603)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft decisions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We turn first to draft decision I, entitled "Organization of work of the Third Committee and biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1995-1996".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision I?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft decision II is entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision II?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council allocated to the Third Committee?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Third Committee.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

**General Assembly**

Forty-ninth Session

95th MeetingFriday, 23 December 1994, 3 p.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Essy (Côte d'Ivoire)

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

Agenda item 22 (continued)

Assistance in mine clearance:

Report of the Secretary-General (A/49/357 and Add.1)

Draft resolution (A/49/L.8/Rev.1)

Amendments (A/49/L.11/Rev.2, A/49/L.12, A/49/L.13)

The President (*interpretation from French*): Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded its debate on item 22 at the 45th plenary meeting, on 26 October last.

The Assembly now has before it a revised draft resolution contained in document A/49/L.8/Rev.1, and amendments thereto contained in documents A/49/L.11/Rev.2, A/49/L.12 and A/49/L.13.

I now call on the representative of Germany to introduce the revised draft resolution contained in document A/49/L.8/Rev.1.

Mr. Rudolph (Germany): I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its acceding States, Austria, Finland and Sweden.

I have the honour to introduce the revised draft resolution on assistance in mine clearance, contained in document A/49/L.8/Rev.1, on behalf of the sponsors. I am pleased to announce at this juncture that Congo has joined the group of sponsors.

When we introduced the original draft resolution on 25 October 1994, we spoke about the tremendous humanitarian problem caused by the presence of mines and other unexploded devices and their serious and lasting consequences for the populations of affected countries. We expressed our conviction that the draft resolution reflected the international community's high degree of concern at the devastating effects of mines and other unexploded devices in countries emerging from armed conflict. We therefore felt that it was appropriate for this draft resolution to be adopted without a vote.

Now, almost two months later, after intensive consultations, we have finally reached solutions for all the concerns raised. In order to do so, we have inserted new language into the draft resolution as follows:

In the fifth preamble paragraph and operative paragraph 9, respectively, the General Assembly would recognize the importance of recording the location of mines and would call upon States, especially those that have the capacity to do so, to provide information and technical and material assistance.



Operative paragraph 8 now contains a more specific enumeration of mine-clearance activities that are to be coordinated by the United Nations.

Operative paragraph 10 speaks of promoting scientific research aimed at the rapid advancement of mine detecting and clearance technology.

In the new operative paragraph 11, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to consider the convening, as early as possible, of an international meeting on mine clearance, to include a meeting of experts and a meeting of potential donors, in order to promote the work of the United Nations and international cooperation in this field.

In the new tenth preambular paragraph, the General Assembly would bear in mind that significant progress needs to be achieved regarding the revision and amendment of the United Nations inhumane weapons Convention and the adoption of an export moratorium.

In the new twelfth preambular paragraph, the General Assembly would welcome the efforts made by the United Nations to foster the establishment of national mine-clearance capacities in countries where mines constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local population.

On behalf of the sponsors, I should like to express the hope that in the light of these changes it will indeed be possible to adopt the revised draft resolution today without a vote.

Before concluding, I should like to express our gratitude to all the delegations that have contributed constructively and with a great deal of flexibility to the drafting of this revised text.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I now call on the representative of Ecuador to introduce the amendments contained in document A/49/L.13.

Mr. Ponce (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/49/357 and Add.1 graphically describes the tragic effects of the existence of 110 million mines in various parts of the planet on millions of people and on the economy of many countries, whose basic rights, including the right of development, are thereby restricted. The elimination of this problem will require, in addition to the actions to be taken in the area of disarmament and arms control, an

expenditure of between \$300 and \$1,000 per mine — in other words, the international community will have to allocate between \$33 billion and \$110 billion to the task of mine clearance.

The delegation of Ecuador believes it would be absolutely impossible to obtain a sum equivalent to between 6 and 20 times the annual budget of the United Nations through voluntary contributions alone. We should remember that after the industrialized countries failed to fulfil the target figure of 1 per cent of their gross national product for cooperation for development, it was reduced to 0.7 per cent — and even that target has been met by only four States. Official development aid decreased by \$6 billion between 1992 and 1993, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been forced to reduce its programmes by 30 per cent. The defects of the voluntary-contributions mechanism have once again become clear in the failure to attain the very modest goals set at the Rio Summit — indeed they now seem unattainable. Furthermore, the Global Environmental Facility Fund has not received even a third of the money it requires. Therefore, it seems impossible that the agreement set forth in Agenda 21 to allocate \$129 billion annually for sustainable development will ever be implemented.

My country feels, however, that all States do not have an equal responsibility for solving the problem. Ecuador is one of the few States that have carried out their obligations under the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and its Protocols, which clearly set forth the responsibility of the States that lay the mines. We thus support the extension, strengthening and universal application of this Convention.

From a strictly economic point of view — on which we must focus in creating a trust fund to finance international-cooperation activities for mine clearance — we must point out that the export of land mines has generated huge profits in past decades. In the near future, many of the firms that have made these profits will even increase them because they will gain the technology and human resources needed for mine clearance. That is why my Government believes that the fund should be financed mainly from the resources of the mine exporters, whose moral responsibility should be made clear by the Assembly.

Document A/49/L.13, submitted by my delegation, contains amendments to draft resolution A/49/L.8 that are designed to establish the responsibility of the mine-exporting States for the financing of the trust fund.

Ecuador's proposal was inspired by the statements made by the delegations of the Andean countries — Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela and my own country, Ecuador — regarding the opinion transmitted to the Secretariat on resolution 48/7; that opinion is contained on page 10 of document A/49/357/Add.1. Three months ago we initiated contacts with the sponsors of draft resolution A/49/L.8 in order to achieve a single text. During those contacts my delegation showed the greatest flexibility. Unfortunately, the resistance of some delegations to recognizing the special responsibility of the mine-exporting States and to referring to them in the draft resolution as being among the possible contributors to the trust fund made it impossible to achieve the consensus on the establishment of the appropriate mechanisms that Ecuador would have wished to see achieved in order to solve this serious humanitarian problem.

A conference of possible donors to the fund is being organized for June 1995. In order to obtain the maximum contributions — and no one can allege that the introduction of political criteria in the draft resolution we are going to adopt today could affect the results — the Government of Ecuador has decided not to ask for a vote on document A/49/L.13. We shall wait to hear the pledges of contributions that States, especially the mine-exporting States, will make at the conference. If they are not commensurate with the dimension of the problem, my delegation will continue to work with other members of the Assembly to find mechanisms that will make possible the adequate financing of mine-clearance activities without affecting the funds allocated for the promotion of development.

In conclusion, my Government thanks the many delegations — both from the developing and from the industrialized countries — that have expressed their support for the ideas contained in document A/49/L.13, including their offer to co-sponsor the amendments. We commit ourselves to continuing to cooperate with them in the quest for the best way to achieve the effective implementation of those ideas.

Mr. Martínez Blanco (Honduras) (*interpretation from Spanish*): With reference to draft resolution A/49/L.8/Rev.1 on agenda item 22, entitled "Assistance in mine clearance", I wish to congratulate the Secretary-

General on his excellent, well-conceived report in document A/49/357, submitted in accordance with resolution A/48/7, adopted by the Assembly on 19 October 1993.

The problem of uncleared land mines has become increasingly serious. Indeed, there are now between 85 million and 110 million mines spread in more than 60 countries. These mines cause an average of 400 deaths a month, overburdening the hospitals and medical services of the countries where the mines have been laid. In addition, they prevent the cultivation of arable land and impede the economic and social recovery of the rural areas of those countries.

According to available information, the estimated cost of the removal of these mines is approximately \$33 billion — and this does not include the cost of the medical treatment of survivors.

In Honduras, there are at present more than 150,000 anti-personnel land-mines, which have been laid over the past decade and which remain active because of their longevity. They are a constant reminder of the wars and political conflicts that have beset our region.

We are therefore grateful for the work the Secretary-General has done in connection with the establishment of a fund for assistance in mine clearance, which has been open for contributions since 30 November 1994. We also express our gratitude to the Organization of American States for its efforts to ensure mine clearance in the Central American region.

My delegation supports the various statements by the Secretary-General on the declaration of a moratorium on the production and sale of anti-personnel mines. In this regard I should like to quote the following from his report entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations":

"Member States must agree on effective measures to stop the production and use of land mines ..." (A/49/177, para. 49)

In his report "An agenda for development: recommendations," the Secretary-General stated:

"More extensive comparative analysis of military and social budgets must be undertaken. Land-mines are a major obstacle to development, shattering lives

and removing land from productive use. An outright worldwide ban on the production and transfer of land-mines and their components should be declared." (A/49/665, para. 33)

After thoroughly studying the problem of anti-personnel land-mines and reading the documents prepared by the Secretary-General as well as the various reports he has submitted on this question, we must ask ourselves whether the will truly exists on the part of some countries to take the serious humanitarian measures necessary to solve this problem. That is why we were disturbed to hear the statement of one delegation in the plenary Assembly on agenda item 92, in which he compared a machete, a farmer's tool, to a land-mine, a tool of war and destruction.

Therefore, as we have informed the President of the Assembly, the sponsors are withdrawing the amendment contained in document A/49/L.11 in order to maintain consensus on draft resolution A/49/L.8/Rev.1. We do so because the content of the ninth and tenth preambular paragraphs is now acceptable to our delegation.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call on the representative of Afghanistan, who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. Farhadi (Afghanistan): Before the General Assembly takes action on draft resolution A/49/L.8/Rev.1, I should like briefly to explain why my delegation has agreed to withdraw the amendments contained in document A/49/L.12, dated 25 October 1994.

The negotiations on the draft resolution — the first version of which was submitted on 20 October — took more than two and a half months. There were many pre-drafts.

On 13 October 1994 my delegation communicated its views to the delegation of Germany and expressed the hope that its Permanent Mission and those of the other members of the European Union — to which my delegation is very grateful for its submission of the original draft resolution — could adopt the Afghan amendments to one of the pre-drafts. These amendments came from Afghanistan, the country most affected by land-mines laid during a war of aggression, one of the most significant that occurred during the so-called cold-war.

Our delegation is now able to withdraw the amendments in document A/49/L.12 because, in summary,

they are incorporated in the new version of the draft resolution in document A/49/L.8/Rev.1, on which the Assembly will take action today. This is also why my delegation has become a co-sponsor of the revised version of the draft resolution.

Before the General Assembly takes action on this revised draft, I should like to place it on record that many nations such as mine are deeply concerned at the fact that, with the progress of technology, mines and other explosive devices are becoming increasingly non-detectable or difficult to detect, and that a number of mines are equipped with anti-handling devices. We are grateful to the delegation of Japan for its firm support of this concern advanced by our delegation, which is reflected in operative paragraph 10 of the revised draft resolution.

It must also be recognized that, as experience shows, the most cost-effective clearance teams are those composed of civilian mine-clearance workers recruited locally and trained by experts, with international assistance.

Regarding operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the revised draft resolution, my delegation and many others expect the Secretary-General to enhance the role of the existing Mine Clearance and Policy Unit, under the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in order, *inter alia*, to study on a continuous basis the problem of land-mines and mine-clearance in war-stricken countries; to serve as a coordinating body for all activities on the national, subregional and international levels and those to be performed by non-governmental organizations in the fields of mine-awareness, training, surveying, mine clearance and scientific research for mine-clearance technology; to initiate, where required, tripartite agreements between the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, non-governmental organizations and Governments concerned, thus ensuring successful mine clearance, awareness of the problem, and training projects and programmes; to coordinate and promote the activities of the governmental and non-governmental organizations that are assisting the developing war-stricken countries in providing prostheses for the victims — adults and children — of land mines and booby-traps; and to facilitate contacts and promote the conclusion of agreements between the affected countries and the donor Governments and non-governmental organizations in the field of mine clearance.

Concerning operative paragraph 9, it is well known that all States that have spread land-mines in other countries must provide maps of the mine-fields, in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 and its additional Protocols.

Regarding operative paragraph 11, on the convening of an international meeting on mine clearance, my delegation would like to state that the meeting of experts could also draft an international strategy for mine clearance as well as ways and means of alleviating the disastrous consequences of land-mines in war-stricken countries. With regard to the meeting of potential donors, my delegation is grateful to the delegation of the United States of America for proposing the idea at the beginning of the discussion of the draft resolution. We are sure that not only Governments but potential donors and non-governmental organizations will be invited to the meeting, which we hope will take place in 1995.

As members will have noticed, I have just made a procedural but also a very substantive statement. We join the delegation of Germany in hoping that the revised draft resolution will be adopted by consensus, without a vote.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly has heard the statement of the representative of Ecuador in which he informed the Assembly that he will not press his proposal to a vote. The Assembly has also heard the statements of the representatives of Honduras and Afghanistan in which they withdrew their respective amendments to draft resolution A/49/L.8/Rev.1.

Therefore, the Assembly has before it for action only draft resolution A/49/L.8/Rev.1. We shall now proceed to consider that draft resolution.

The following countries have become sponsors of the draft resolution: Albania and Guinea-Bissau.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/49/L.8/Rev.1.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/49/L.8/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 49/215).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 22?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 17 (continued)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(j) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit: note by the President of the General Assembly (A/49/806)

The President (*interpretation from French*): As is indicated in document A/49/806, in accordance with the procedures described in article 3, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, having consulted the regional groups concerned, and on the basis of a candidature submitted by the Eastern European States as well as through a consultation by secret ballot with the General Assembly, I requested the delegations of Burkina Faso, Germany, Poland and the United States of America to propose candidates.

As is further indicated in document A/49/806, as a result of consultations in accordance with article 3, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, including consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and with the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, I now submit to the Assembly the candidatures of Mr. Andrzej Abraszewski of Poland, Mr. John D. Fox of the United States of America, Mr. Wolfgang M. Münch of Germany, and Mr. Ali Badara Tall of Burkina Faso for appointment as members of the Joint Inspection Unit for a term of office commencing on 1 January 1996 and expiring on 31 December 2000.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to appoint those candidates?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (j) of agenda item 17.

Introduction of reports of the Fifth Committee

The President (*interpretation from French*): The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 104, 105, 107, 108,

110 to 117, 119, 122 to 126, 128, 129, 132, 146, 155 and 12.

I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. Djacta (Algeria), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (*interpretation from French*): I have the honour today to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee on the items on its agenda.

Members will recall that 33 items were allocated to the Fifth Committee for the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

From 23 September to 22 December, the Fifth Committee held 38 formal meetings. All the negotiations on the various items inscribed on its agenda took place in informal meetings. I am happy to inform the Assembly that all the draft resolutions and draft decisions adopted during this first part of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly were adopted by consensus.

I shall now present a brief report on the work of the Fifth Committee.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 104, "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", is contained in document A/49/804. In paragraph 7 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 105, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", is contained in document A/49/820. In paragraph 13 of that report the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, concerning the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997. In paragraph 14 of the report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of three draft decisions. Draft decision I concerns the deferment to the resumed forty-ninth session of consideration of agenda item 105. It was submitted orally by the Chairman of the Committee. Draft decision II concerns documents relating to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. Draft decision III concerns the Fifth Committee's biennial programme of work for 1995-1996. The draft resolution and the three

draft decisions were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 155, "Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991" is contained in document A/49/807. In paragraph 5 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 107, "Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995", is contained in document A/49/822. In that report the Committee recommends the adoption of the two draft resolutions contained in paragraph 27 of document A/C.5/49/L.32. The Fifth Committee adopted those draft resolutions without a vote.

On agenda item 108, "Programme planning", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/49/819. In paragraph 7 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision presented orally by the Chairman of the Committee, by which the General Assembly would decide to defer to its resumed forty-ninth session consideration of agenda item 108. The draft decision was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 110, "Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency", is contained in document A/49/779. In paragraph 5 of the report the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision by which the Assembly would take note of the statistical report by the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the budgetary and financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system. This draft decision, proposed orally, was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

On agenda item 111, "Pattern of conferences", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/49/805. In paragraph 7 of that report the Committee recommends the adoption of one draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 112, "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", is contained in document A/49/673/Add.1. In paragraph 6 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the

adoption of one draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

With regard to agenda item 113, "Human resources management", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/49/802. In paragraph 6 of that report the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 114, "United Nations common system", is contained in document A/49/772. In paragraph 9 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

On agenda item 115, "United Nations pension system", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/49/773. In paragraph 7 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 116 (a), "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force", is contained in document A/49/755/Add.1. In paragraph 5 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

On agenda item 116 (b), "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", the report of the Fifth Committee on this item is contained in document A/49/811. In paragraph 6 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which it adopted without a vote.

With regard to agenda item 117, "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/49/816. In paragraph 6 of the report the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 119, "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara", is contained in document

A/49/808. In paragraph 6 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft decision, which it adopted without a vote.

On agenda item 122, "Financing of the United Nations Protection Force", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/49/756/Add.1. In paragraph 6 of that report the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 123, "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II", is contained in document A/49/757/Add.1. In paragraph 5 of the report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which it adopted without a vote.

With regard to agenda item 124, "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/49/817. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which it adopted without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 125, "Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus", is contained in document A/49/809. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

On agenda item 126, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/49/798. In paragraph 6 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which it adopted without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 128, "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/49/818. In paragraph 6 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft decision, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 129, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia", is contained in document A/49/812. In paragraph 6 of that report the Committee recommends to

the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which it adopted without a vote.

On agenda item 132 (a), "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in documents A/49/803 and A/49/803/Add.1. In paragraph 6 of part II of the report (A/49/803/Add.1), the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote. In paragraph 5 of document A/49/803, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, also adopted by the Committee without a vote.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 132 (b), "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: Relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/322", is contained in document A/49/821. In paragraph 7 of that report the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of one draft decision, which was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Regarding agenda item 146, "Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/49/810. In paragraph 7 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt a draft decision, presented by the representative of Austria, by which the General Assembly would decide to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the additional amount of \$7 million to allow the International Tribunal to continue its activities until 31 March 1995, without prejudice to any decisions that the General Assembly might take with regard to budgetary and administrative matters and to the mode of financing, and to resume consideration of the item before 28 February 1995. This draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank very sincerely Mr. Joseph Acakpo-Satchivi, the esteemed Secretary of the Fifth Committee, and the members of the Secretariat for their support during our deliberations.

The President (*interpretation from French*): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we shall take decisions in the same manner as in the Fifth Committee.

Agenda item 104

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/804)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/216).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 104.

Agenda item 105

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/820)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 13 of its report and on the three draft decisions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 14.

We turn first to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 13 of document A/49/820.

The draft resolution is entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/217).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn now to the three draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 14 of document A/49/820.

We turn first to draft decision I entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft decision I?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Next, we turn to draft decision II, entitled "Documents relating to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

Draft decision II was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): Draft decision III is entitled "Biennial programme of work for the Fifth Committee for 1995-1996".

Draft decision III was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft decision III was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 105.

Agenda item 155

Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/807)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report.

The draft resolution is entitled "Final appropriation for the biennium 1990-1991" and was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/218).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 155?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 107

Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/822)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee. The

recommendations of the Fifth Committee are for the time being contained in section IV, paragraph 27, of document A/C.5/49/L.32.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995". As stated in the report, section IV of the draft resolution should be replaced by the text contained in document A/49/822.

The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 49/219).

The President (interpretation from French): Draft resolution II, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 49/220).

The President (interpretation from French): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 107.

Agenda item 108

Programme planning: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/819)

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 108.

Agenda item 110

Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/779)

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of its report.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt this draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (interpretation from French): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 110?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 111

Pattern of conferences: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/805)

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/221).

The President (interpretation from French): May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 111?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 112 (continued)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/49/673/Add.1)

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of part II of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/19 B).

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of position.

Mr. Sychou (Belarus) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Assembly has just adopted a very important resolution which determines the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations for 1995 to 1997.

We joined the consensus on this resolution for the following reasons.

Whenever the matter of the financial functioning of the United Nations has been considered, the delegation of Belarus has always pointed out the close link between the problems related to the establishment of the scale of assessment for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations and the financial crisis of the Organization. This session has quite convincingly shown once again that the problem of overcoming the financial crisis is still relevant — indeed, even more relevant.

In this connection we would like to emphasize that, although we joined the consensus on the resolution on the scale of assessments for the period 1995 to 1997, we are none the less deeply dissatisfied with the proposed scheme for the apportionment of the level of contributions of States Members of the United Nations. We feel our attitude is justified because our scale of assessment is still high and it is not in keeping with our real capacity to pay.

The means used by the Committee on Contributions and by the Fifth Committee to establish the scale of assessment of Belarus for the regular budget as long ago as 1992 practically speaking increased our assessment one and a half times and set a dangerous precedent that undermines the spirit of consensus that has been established with regard to the adoption of decisions on administrative and budgetary questions within the Organization. During the period that has just ended, we have constantly tried to rectify the present situation, in which one of the original founders of the United Nations is in fact facing the danger of the revocation of its right to vote in the Assembly because we do not have the financial means to deal with our rapidly increasing regular-budget indebtedness or to

make our contribution to the financing of peace-keeping operations.

According to Secretariat data, Belarus was one of the seven debtor countries *vis-à-vis* the regular budget and one of the nine debtor countries *vis-à-vis* the financing of peace-keeping operations.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to achieve any real results during this session. At its fifty-fourth session, although it had every opportunity to do so, the Committee on Contributions did not carry out the mandate in paragraph 3 of resolution 48/223 B, which covers the specific circumstances which are applicable to the Republic of Belarus. Moreover, the Committee on Contributions has proposed a three-step method for reducing by one and one half times the impact of the scheme of limits in establishing the scale of assessments for 1995 to 1997. That proposal, in our view, contradicts rule 160 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure and violates the spirit of resolution 48/223 B.

The ambiguity of the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions caused serious difficulties in the discussion of the scale of assessments in the Fifth Committee and, to a certain extent, predetermined the results of the work on this agenda item. That is hardly a satisfactory situation from our point of view.

Unfortunately, the process of establishing a scale of assessments for the forthcoming period has once again convincingly demonstrated the conservative approach and the narrow interests that still prevail over common sense in the efforts to solve the financial problems of the United Nations. In these conditions, it is becoming ever more apparent that the system of assessing the contributions of Member States should be improved by eliminating distortions in the various elements of the system and making sure that the principle of each State's capacity to pay is applied in all cases. In this connection, we are placing special hopes in the activities of the open-ended working group which, under the guidance of the President of the General Assembly, has been asked to consider a package of questions related to the establishment of a just system of apportioning the expenses of the United Nations. At the same time, we would like to emphasize that we trust that the real problem of determining my country's scale of assessment in accordance with its capacity to pay will be solved before the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

Finally, the image of consensus that we have now is fragile and must be carefully nurtured. It should reflect the real balance of opinions and the general agreement as well as the interests of all States without exception. We should not be merely chasing a mirage.

Mr. Al-Amri (Oman) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation already spoke on this matter during the general debate on the report of the Committee on Contributions. At that time, we expressed my country's position on the Committee's recommendation that our scale of assessment should be raised. Because we truly wish to adhere to the principle of consensus in the adoption of the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions, my delegation joined the consensus for the adoption of the draft resolution, contained in paragraph 6 of document A/49/673/Add.1.

The fundamental principle for determining the scale of Member States' assessments is their capacity to pay. We would like to emphasize that our scale of assessment is not in keeping with this principle. Furthermore, during the discussion of the various criteria for determining the scale of assessments, the Committee on Contributions did not take many important factors into account.

At this time, most developing countries including my own, are suffering from economic problems that affect them adversely in various ways. We raise this matter because we genuinely desire to pay our contribution in time and in full. I do not wish to dwell now on the economic and financial obstacles and difficulties we are facing at this stage. My delegation only hopes that the Committee on Contributions will take these concerns into consideration, in keeping with operative paragraph 4 of the resolution that has now been adopted.

Mr. Zlenko (Ukraine): Ukraine attaches great importance to the agenda item that is now under consideration by the General Assembly.

Two years have passed since the General Assembly voted on and adopted decision 47/456, which is now well known. As a result, the rate of assessment for Ukraine was, in one fell swoop and in an unprecedented manner, increased by more than 50 per cent. Ukraine thus became one of the Member States most affected by the unfair apportionment of the assessment of the former USSR for the regular budget of the Organization.

In recent years, my country has been exerting untiring efforts in the United Nations to make our determined rate

of assessment correspond to our capacity to pay. In accordance with rule 160 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure, the Government of Ukraine has twice appealed to the Committee on Contributions to determine an assessment rate that would reflect Ukraine's capacity to pay.

We must state however, with regret, that the Committee appears to have been unable to settle this problem or to improve the mechanism for the apportionment of expenses of the Organization in general. The three-step scale of assessments for the years 1995 to 1997 that has just been adopted by the General Assembly will not be simple, transparent or fair. Due to the imperfect methodology used in its determination — one that does not reflect current realities — the rates of assessment of many Member States continue to exceed tremendously their capacity to pay.

Ukraine has agreed to adopt this scale without a vote not because it is satisfied with its content but with the aim of restoring the spirit of consensus in questions of the financing of the United Nations.

We are firmly convinced that the components of the scheme of limits, which have become obsolete and unrealistic, should be promptly excluded from the scale methodology in order to apportion the expenses of the Organization on an economically sound basis.

The Committee on Contributions should in future work towards accelerating the adjustment of the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations to Member States' capacity to pay. This not only would serve the interests of a large group of Member States and create opportunities to solve the problem of Ukraine's excessive rate of assessment, but also would serve the interests of the Organization as a whole inasmuch as it would lead to the quickest improvement of its financial situation.

We expect that the deliberations of the high-level open-ended working group under the chairmanship of the President of the General Assembly, as well as of the ad hoc intergovernmental working group of experts established under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/19 A, will have a positive impact in the financial sphere. But a real improvement in the mechanism of the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations can be achieved only if those Member States with a high economic potential demonstrate

political will and pay their contributions to this Organization in accordance with their capacity to pay.

Mr. Baumanis (Latvia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of Estonia, Lithuania and my own country, Latvia.

I wish to express our deep gratitude to the Chairman of the informal consultations on agenda item 112, Ambassador Maycock of Barbados, for his leadership, patience and fortitude, and to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Teirlinck of Belgium. Their joint efforts have led to a consensus decision on this agenda item.

Exactly a year ago, the Baltic States addressed the General Assembly and stated their expectation that resolution 48/223 B would lead to new assessment rates for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania under the next scale in accordance with their capacity to pay, thus ending the overassessment of the Baltic States under the current scale. It may be recalled that the General Assembly tried but failed, both in 1991 and 1992, to decide on a capacity-to-pay rate for the Baltic States.

The fulfilment of this expectation of the Baltic States has once again been deferred to a future scale. The Baltic States joined in the adoption without a vote of the draft resolution contained in document A/49/673/Add.1 — but with serious reservations, because the next scale prolongs the transition to a scale based on capacity to pay for the Baltic States and for the other States among the 22 Member States that were first identified by the Committee on Contributions in its 1993 report.

In its 1994 report, in column 6 of annexes II A and III B, the Committee succeeded in defining, for the first time, capacity-to-pay assessment rates for all Member States on the basis of national account data and the best available approximations of market exchange rates. The scheme of limits permits the next scale to move, step by step, more than half way towards these rates by the year 1997. In that year most of the 22 Member States will still have assessment rates at least 100 per cent higher than their capacity-to-pay rates. Completion of the transition to capacity-to-pay assessment rates is a task that remains to be accomplished immediately after 1997.

Therefore, the principle of sovereign equality, which means that all Member States have equal rights and obligations, including financial ones, and which is enshrined in paragraph 1 of Article 2 of the Charter, continues to be violated because the application in 1992 of

the ad hoc assessment methodology to the 22 Member States, in place of the standard methodology used for all other States, continues to increase the assessment rates of the 22 States through the constraints imposed by the scheme of limits.

The principle of sovereign equality continues to be violated for two additional reasons. First, the excessive assessment rates for the current scale period, determined through the ad hoc method that discriminated against the 22 Member States, remain unchanged. Secondly, the current assessment rates for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are derived from the assessment rates of the former USSR, and their advance to the Working Capital Fund is paid out of the advance of the former USSR.

To sum up, the Baltic States have been forced to accept a financial obligation and an asset of the former USSR. The position of the Baltic States is that they are not successors to the former Soviet Union. The principle of sovereign equality requires respect from other States for this position of principle held by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Baltic States reserve the right to take action concerning assessment rates and advances to the Working Capital Fund in order to achieve compliance with the principle of sovereign equality.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania believe that the excessive assessment rates for the 22 Member States were partly the result of the present procedure and methodology for determining scales of assessment. The Baltic delegations support reform of both the procedure and the methodology for determining scales of assessment and are ready to participate in such an endeavour, including active participation in the open-ended working group that the General Assembly established today.

In this connection, the Baltic States wish to bring to the attention of the Member States one aspect of the payment of contributions in full and on time: the close connection between inequitable assessments and the financial difficulties of the United Nations. A large share of the inequitable assessments results from the application of the scheme of limits, which over assesses Member States if their wealth has been exaggerated in the past or if their economies have grown at a rate that falls below the world average. Such overassessment of States, especially if they are newly independent States with emerging financial institutions, leads directly to an increase in outstanding contributions, because the Governments of these States control extremely limited

financial resources and have to respond to an exceptionally large number of financial needs.

Predictably, at the end of November, the group of over 30 Member States with assessment rates that suffer distortion due to the application of the scheme of limits was responsible for nearly 50 per cent of the outstanding contributions to the United Nations. This group had outstanding contributions that were over 10 times greater, per an assessment rate of 1 per cent, than the group of over 20, mostly rich, States with rapidly growing economies, which benefit from the scheme of limits. The decision on the new scale that the General Assembly has adopted exploits only partially the potential that an equitable assessment methodology possesses for improving the financial situation of the United Nations.

Ms. Arystanbekova (Kazakhstan): The delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan was an active participant in the informal consultations on the scale of assessments for the years 1995 to 1997. We must admit that the negotiations on this subject this year again turned out to be a very lengthy exercise. Many ideas were floated and many positions were taken. Eventually, a consensus decision more of a political than of a technical nature was reached. My delegation joined the consensus out of a spirit of cooperation and flexibility, although the decision taken cannot fully satisfy my Government.

My delegation's position on the scale of assessments and its methodology has been made known on many occasions. We firmly believe that there is plenty of room for further improvement of the scale methodology, in particular through the complete elimination of all of its highly distorting elements, in order to achieve a transparent, equitable and non-discriminatory scale of assessments. My delegation attaches great importance to this because it believes the credibility of the scale and its methodology to be a crucial factor for the sound financial standing of the United Nations. My delegation will therefore continue to take an active part in the work of the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly on this question and looks forward to the outcome of the work of the ad hoc group of experts to study the principle of capacity to pay, and the concurrent report of the Committee on Contributions.

In conclusion, my delegation extends its most sincere thanks to Ambassador Maycock of Barbados, who coordinated the informal consultations on the scale of assessments in a most expert and exemplary manner, thus contributing to the final decision that was just taken by

consensus. We should also like to thank the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Teirlinck, and all the delegations that participated in these important negotiations.

The President (interpretation from French): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 112.

Agenda item 113

Human resources management: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/802)

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/222).

The President (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who wishes to speak in explanation of position.

Mr. Shaheed (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish to reiterate my delegation's position on the Conventions on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.

My delegation is in favour of the provision of all possible assistance to United Nations staff by the terms of those Conventions. My delegation considers that the Conventions cover all those working for the United Nations in the field in Syria. Like every other country that grants such immunities, my country expects these international civil servants to comply with the provisions of the Conventions in terms of respecting the norms and laws of the host country. Such staff members must not engage in any activity incompatible with the nature of their work.

My country supports these immunities so long as they do not constitute intervention in the domestic affairs of States.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 113.

Agenda item 114

United Nations common system: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/772)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report. It is entitled "United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission".

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/223).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 114?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 115

United Nations pension system: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/773)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/224).

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 115?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 116 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East

(a) **United Nations Disengagement Observer Force: report of the Fifth Committee (part II) (A/49/755/Add.1)**

(b) **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/811)**

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn first to part II of the report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/755/Add.1), on sub-item (a) of agenda item 116, which relates to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of that report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/225).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We turn next to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/811) sub-item (b) of agenda item 116, which relates to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The General Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/226).

The President (*interpretation from French*): I call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who wishes to speak in explanation of position.

Mr. Shaheed (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation wishes to explain its position on the draft resolutions recommended in documents

A/49/755/Add.1 and A/49/811, relating respectively to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Had these draft resolutions been put to the vote, my delegation would have voted against them, in accordance with our position of principle, as stated at previous sessions of the General Assembly, that the cost of financing these forces should be borne by the aggressor country, whose aggressive practices made it necessary to establish the two forces.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 116.

Agenda item 117

Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/816)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/227).

The President (*interpretation from French*): I now call on the representative of Angola, who wished to make a statement.

Mr. Teixeira Fortes (Angola) (*interpretation from Spanish*): On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola, I should like to congratulate all the members of the Fifth Committee on the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution that has now become resolution 49/227. We are particularly grateful to all the countries which, in one way or another, have contributed positively and in various ways to the efforts to bring about peace in my country.

We are aware of the very important role which the United Nations has played in the past and continues to play in the effective implementation of the Lusaka, Zambia, agreements. The proof of this is that my Government has

made available to the future United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM III) \$64.7 million for the following purposes: \$15.5 million for housing, warehouses at seaports and airports, fuel, parking facilities, and offices; and \$49.2 million for various Government service facilities, such as those related to immigration operations, customs duties and so forth.

My Government will make available to UNAVEM III a total of \$374 million, which is equivalent to almost 30 per cent of the entire figure for assistance from the international community.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 117.

Agenda item 119

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/808)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 119.

Agenda item 122 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Protection Force: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/49/756/Add.1)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of part II its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/228).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 122.

Agenda item 123 (continued)

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II: report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/49/757/Add.1)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/229).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 123.

Agenda item 124

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/817)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 124.

Agenda item 125

Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/809)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/230).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 125.

Agenda item 126

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/798)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/231).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 126.

Agenda item 128

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/818)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 128.

Agenda item 129

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/812)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/232).

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 129.

Agenda item 132

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations

(a) Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: report of the Fifth Committee (Parts I and II) (A/49/803 and Add.1)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will first take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part I of its report (A/49/803).

The draft decision is entitled "Support account for peace-keeping operations" and was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly also wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of part II of its report (A/49/803/Add.1).

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/233).

(b) Relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/821)

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*interpretation from French*): I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their positions.

Mr. Orange (Belarus) (*interpretation from Russian*): We are firmly convinced that the adoption of the decision in the Fifth Committee's report in document A/49/821, reflects the spirit of cooperation and understanding shown by Member States in evaluating the full complexity of the situation of the Republic of Belarus, which is still in group B of the scale of assessments for financing peace-keeping operations.

At the same time, while recognizing the great importance of this resolution to Belarus, we must stress that we consider it only a partial solution to the serious financial problem set forth in the relevant agenda item of the forty-ninth session.

We must unfortunately note that this question has dragged on because the Organization has not been able to eliminate the factors which have made it impossible for the Republic of Belarus, because of its economic situation, to meet its financial obligations with respect to United Nations peace-keeping operations.

We feel that there is only one way out of this situation — namely, to solve this long-standing, urgent problem immediately. In this regard we would like to

express the hope that a just and complete solution to the question will make it possible to remove this item from the General Assembly's agenda in 1995.

Mr. Zlenko (Ukraine): The decision that has just been taken by the General Assembly is of great significance for my country. Our delegation is grateful to all the Member States that have taken into account our difficulties regarding the payment of contributions to peace-keeping operations.

The discussion of this matter yesterday in the Fifth Committee clearly demonstrated that Member States are interested in finding a prompt and fair solution to the problem of the relocation of Ukraine to the group described in paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 43/232, regarding the scheme for the apportionment of expenses for peace-keeping operations, and the subsequent resolution of its indebtedness.

We consider the present decision a transitional step and hope that at its resumed forty-ninth session the General Assembly will find the modalities to settle this problem finally. The delegation of Ukraine is ready to do its best to this end.

The President (interpretation from French): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 132.

Agenda item 146

Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/810)

The President: (interpretation from French): The Assembly will take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 146.

Agenda item 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council: report of the Fifth Committee (A/49/670)

The President (interpretation from French): The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 12, dealing with those chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council which were allocated to the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 4 of its report.

May I take it that the Assembly adopts the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (interpretation from French): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of those chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council which were allocated to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 89 (continued)

Environment and sustainable development

- (d) Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee (Part V) (A/49/729/Add.4)

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences (A/49/784)

The President (interpretation from French): Members will recall that at its 92nd plenary meeting, on 19 December 1994, the Assembly was informed that agenda item 89 (d) would be considered at a later date, in order to allow for the review of the programme budget

implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of part V of its report.

The Fifth Committee has now considered the programme budget implications of this draft resolution, in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, under agenda item 107, which the Assembly considered earlier this afternoon.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of part V of its report.

With regard to this draft resolution, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees with the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences contained in document A/49/784?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of part V of the report was adopted by the Second Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 49/234).

The President (*interpretation from French*): I should like to inform the Assembly that the relevant provisions of the resolution just adopted will be incorporated in the biennial programme of work of the Second Committee adopted by the General Assembly at its 92nd plenary meeting, on 19 December 1994.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 89?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Second Committee.

Agenda item 12 (continued)

Report of the Economic and Social Council: chapters considered directly in plenary meeting (chapters I, II, III (section C), V (section A), VI (section K), XVI and XVII (A/49/3)

The President (*interpretation from French*): Members will recall that chapters I, II, III (section C), V (section A), VI (section K), XVI and XVII of the report of the Economic and Social Council were assigned to plenary meetings.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to take note of those chapters of the report?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of chapters I, II, III (section C), V (section A), VI (section K), XVI and XVII of the report of the Economic and Social Council?

It was so decided.

The President (*interpretation from French*): We have thus concluded our consideration of all the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

Programme of work

The President (*interpretation from French*): Apart from organizational matters and items that may have to be considered by operation of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and bearing in mind the action already taken by the Assembly at its 31st, 47th, 49th, 51st, 55th, 56th, 70th, 75th, 82nd, 83rd, 88th, 92nd, 94th and 95th plenary meetings, concerning agenda items 10, 11, 16(a), 17(g), 17(i), 34, 39, 40, 42 to 44, 77, 79, 92, 100(d), 104, 105, 107, 108, 112, 113, 116, 117, 119, 120, 122 to 130, 132 and 146, I should like to propose that the following agenda items be retained for consideration during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly:

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| Item 10 | Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization |
| Item 11 | Report of the Security Council |
| Item 15(c) | Election of a member of the International Court of Justice |
| Item 16(a) | Election of twelve members of the World Food Council |
| Item 17(g) | Appointment of members and alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee |

Item 17(i)	Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences	Item 77	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
Item 33	Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters	Item 79	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects
Item 34	The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti	Item 92	Agenda for development
Item 39	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Item 100(d)	Comprehensive implementation and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
Item 40	Question of Palestine	Item 104	Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors
Item 42	The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development	Item 105	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations
Item 43	Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields	Item 106	Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993
Item 44	Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995	Item 107	Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995
Item 47	Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and international peace and security	Item 108	Programme planning
		Item 109	Improving the financial situation of the United Nations
Item 48	Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development	Item 112	Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations
		Item 113	Human resources management
Item 49	Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations	Item 116	Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East
Item 50	The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security	Item 117	Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission
		Item 118	Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)
Item 51	Question of Cyprus	Item 119	Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
Item 52	Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait	Item 120	Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador

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| Item 121 | Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia |
| Item 122 | Financing of the United Nations Protection Force |
| Item 123 | Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II |
| Item 124 | Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique |
| Item 125 | Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus |
| Item 126 | Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia |
| Item 127 | Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda |
| Item 128 | Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti |
| Item 129 | Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia |
| Item 130 | Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda |
| Item 131 | Financing of the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia |
| Item 132 | Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations |
| Item 146 | Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 |
| Item 162 | Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan |

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly that those agenda items be retained for consideration during the forty-ninth session of the Assembly?

It was so decided.

Statement by the President

The President (*interpretation from French*): The time has come to suspend this session of the General Assembly, on the eve of a historic year that will be marked by the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of our Organization. At this stage in our work, it would be premature to make any assessment, even a provisional one, of what we have done. I will therefore confine myself to making a few comments, drawn in particular from my analysis of the work done in the Main Committees and of the general debate in the plenary Assembly, whose rich and stimulating content is certainly the clearest illustration of our commitment to, and even of our faith in, the United Nations and the ideals enshrined in its Charter.

I also take this opportunity to welcome the admission to membership in the United Nations at this session of the Republic of Palau, as the 185th Member State. This has brought to an end the application to the Pacific Island Territories of the Trusteeship System, established by the United Nations at the end of the Second World War. The admission of Palau assuredly strengthens the universality of the United Nations.

The current session has also been marked by the entry into force on 16 November 1994 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement of 28 July 1994 relating to the implementation of Part XI of that Convention, which has come into effect provisionally.

Similarly, we would recall the adoption during this session of two Declarations and a Convention with paramount legal and political significance. The first of these instruments is the Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security. The second instrument is the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism. It should be noted that this item has been on the General Assembly's agenda for 22 years. The third instrument is the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. The adoption of these three instruments of major importance at the same session is in itself an exceptional event, which should be highlighted.

One of the General Assembly's essential goals is to offer a forum for discussion, a unique global platform for the leaders of 185 Member States to present their views each year on the world situation. In this regard, the work of this session, during which 162 agenda items were considered, offers a wealth of lessons. It has been a font of imagination, creativity and the spirit of solidarity.

In this regard, we have noted with satisfaction the emergence of a true spirit of consensus, which has been evident on many occasions during our work, particularly during our consideration of such sensitive matters as the financial situation of the Organization, the question of external debt, and the strengthening of humanitarian assistance. At this stage of our work, we have adopted a total of 295 resolutions, 229 of them without a vote. Member States must therefore be congratulated on their positive attitude, and we must express the hope that this trend will continue to be strengthened, because clearly that could only better reflect our commitment to responding appropriately to the problems of our times.

The picture of the world situation painted by many high-level representatives of Member States reflects a feeling which I believe to be widely shared: that we are still in a period of transition that offers extraordinary opportunities for building a true international community but that also contains the seeds of various threats which, if not eliminated in time, could engender new rifts within the international community and perhaps even condemn us to deadlock.

In the early 1990s, we were all more or less — and certainly more in the northern countries of the North than in those of the South — victims of a sort of illusion: we believed that the end of the cold war would give painless birth, as if by magic, to what was then called a "new world order", bringing peace, equity and solidarity among peoples and nations. The end of the East-West bipolarity was indeed reflected in the speedy settlement, under the auspices of the United Nations, of several regional conflicts that had been stirred up and maintained, often artificially, by the ideological rivalry of the era. But other regional conflicts have endured because, they are deeply rooted in the histories of some nations. In this respect, we have witnessed in various parts of the world the proliferation of internal conflicts, which have more often than not erupted within multiethnic or multid denominational societies. During the cold war, it had been possible to contain many of these conflicts for decades, without their being actually settled. This Pandora's box, today wide open, certainly is the most

threatening and tragic legacy of a time we all know to be past.

The euphoria that followed the end of the cold war has yielded to uncertainty, even a sort of disenchantment, at the "failures" of the San Francisco Charter's system of collective security that have been witnessed in many theatres of operation.

Such questions remain, but I believe that we have emerged from that period of doubt. The general debate and the work of the Main Committees demonstrated notable convergence in the views of Members States on the state of the world, on the foundations of joint action to mobilize States, and on guidelines for the reform that we are convinced the United Nations can no longer defer.

Today's stakes and challenges can now be more clearly and more precisely identified; I shall not rehearse them here. To address most of these issues, the need has been stressed — especially in the Committees — to promote and strengthen international cooperation in numerous spheres, including disarmament, environmental protection and the fight against poverty and organized crime.

Yet, beyond these important post-cold-war matters, the work of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly so far has shown broad agreement on a number of priority goals of the United Nations and on strategies for reaching them. In that connection, we cannot fail to welcome important proposals that Member States made at the highest level during the general debate. I have taken careful note of these, some of which relate to the tasks of the General Assembly, but I shall not enumerate them today. But we must remember that if implemented most of these proposals would greatly contribute to the effectiveness of the Organization.

I wish also to pay tribute to the Secretary-General whose "Agenda for Peace" and "Agenda for Development" constitute a paramount contribution to our common effort to revitalize our approaches, strategies and working methods.

Indeed, as we have heard in this Hall daily, peace and development are two sides of the same coin: there can be no lasting peace without development, or development without peace. Beyond that interaction — which was cited by many Member States as they stressed that poverty, exclusion and inequality among individuals and among nations are one of the main causes of

conflict — the debate clearly showed that we must rethink traditional concepts and approaches with respect to peace and development. The road to peace must pass through gradual nuclear disarmament and limits on the transfer of conventional weapons.

Henceforth we must be more determined to use preventive diplomacy, humanitarian assistance and support for democratization, as well as restoring and rebuilding the social, educational and cultural institutions of nations. In that connection, I have noted various concrete proposals on strengthening and expanding the instruments of preventive diplomacy, and have also noted the emphasis placed on the peace-keeping responsibilities of organizations for regional cooperation in peace-keeping. Much less costly than peace-keeping, preventive diplomacy is a valuable tool for identifying and preventing emerging, looming crises. Using it requires sustained attention and creativity.

Similarly, priority will henceforth be given to an integrated approach to development stressing the links between its economic, demographic, cultural, social and political elements, for as we have heard at this session, development increases freedom, gives tangible form to human dignity and strengthens democracy. On the operational level, the series of major conferences that began in 1992 on the themes of the environment, human rights, population, social development and the status of women provide an opportunity to speak of these elements of development one by one, and to devise the most appropriate strategies. Perhaps it would be a good idea, as proposed, to consider convening a United Nations conference on development soon to guarantee the consistency of these efforts.

In any event, starting next year the General Assembly's working group on the Agenda for Development will do very useful work on all the interrelated aspects of the question of development, which from now on is to be accorded integrated consideration on its five dimensions: peace, the economy, the environment, social justice and democracy. Because of the trend towards the globalization of the economy and of the phenomenon of regionalization, economies must remain open and interdependent. Development strategies must therefore combine assistance, investment and transfer of technology.

Because I am from Africa, I am inevitably touched by the sympathy — in the literal sense of the word — all Member States have shown and by the special attention they have paid with respect to our continent, which faces tragic challenges to peace and development. With specific

reference to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, consensus on financing a mechanism for the diversification of Africa's commodities demonstrated the international community's continued interest in Africa's development problems — and, as is known, Africa is one of the priorities for the United Nations.

To achieve our goals in the area of peace and development, the United Nations must heed the words spoken in this Hall and must be a strong, credible Organization with the means to meet our expectations. A dynamics of reform has been set in motion; we must continue, broaden and complete it. In that way we will be true to our ideals and able to meet all the challenges. In statements in the Assembly and in its Committees, I noted a concern and willingness shared by all Member States: to strengthen existing institutional and operational machinery, even at the cost of jolting the habits we have too easily acquired over the years, and to seriously review the working methods of the Assembly and other important bodies such as the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. We see now the will to deepen the reforms, notably that relating to enlargement of the Security Council, but the precise terms of such a reform remain to be determined. The goal is to increase the transparency of the Council's functioning and to enable all Member States to feel that it is not indifferent to their concerns. I myself will chair the first resumed meeting of the working group on the expansion of the Security Council, which is scheduled for 16 January 1995.

In the financial area, we all heard the Secretary-General's statement here on 12 October 1994 concerning the precarious financial situation of the Organization. I am pleased that the Assembly's response to that statement was commensurate with the seriousness of the situation as reported by the Secretary-General. This matter, crucial for the future of the Organization, will be the object of useful study in the open-ended high-level working group on this subject, which I myself shall chair, to endow the matter with all the political interest it deserves. The Organization's difficult financial situation is in fact a symptom of the need to adapt the United Nations to a changing environment.

However that may be, the reforms to be undertaken within the United Nations must be global and must give us a clear vision of the future of the entire United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions. The general debate at this session showed that there is a

consensus on the urgent, overriding need to revitalize the obligations incumbent on the Organization as we prepare to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary.

Member States are calling for a concrete plan of action because we must take another look at the role played by the Organization in achieving the fundamental goals laid down in the Charter. We have to do so in the light of developments in the international situation and developments new problems that will arise. Member States have expressed the view that we must approach the forthcoming decades with a new and positive perspective on the future.

That is why I undertook broad consultations with many delegations to study the most appropriate way in which the General Assembly could make its contribution to achieving this goal, while taking into account all the thinking, the studies and the research on this question already engaged in both inside the United Nations system and outside it. Very soon I will hold other broad consultations in order to bring this exercise to a conclusion.

We are about to take leave of one another at the end of the present phase of the current session. But before doing so, I feel a duty to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the Assembly for their cooperation and for the contribution they have made to the success of our work.

Allow me, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly, to express our deep gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, our dynamic Secretary-General, for his constant support and useful counsel. This tribute also goes to all the Secretary-General's colleagues, who spared no effort to provide us with the valuable technical assistance we needed to carry out our task properly.

In particular, I wish to thank very sincerely the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, who helped me

admirably and took my place at times, thus allowing me to perform other aspects of my functions.

Similarly, my thanks go to the Chairmen of the various Committees, as well as the other members of their respective Bureaus, whose decisive contribution to the results achieved deserves to be stressed.

Finally, the tribute should be extended to the General Assembly Affairs Division and the many staff members of the Secretariat, whether visible here or not: the conference officers, the editors, the interpreters, the translators, the secretaries, the typists, the security personnel, the messengers, the catering staff and the maintenance staff. All of them have aided us in their various ways by carrying out their tasks professionally and with devotion.

I should like to say how happy I have been to work with Mrs. Rosario Green, the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs. I wish her success in her new functions as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General.

As the year draws to its end and we set off for home, I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

On the eve of the third millennium, and of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, we are more than ever responsible for the success or failure of our Organization. Let us not hesitate, then, to go beyond what seems possible today. A few weeks ago President Mandela reminded us that the United Nations had managed to push back the "frontiers of racism" because, so long as apartheid was raging in South Africa, all mankind felt debased and degraded. It is our duty to do everything possible to push back the frontiers of hatred, intolerance, violence, exclusion and poverty. Let us, then, build together a better world — a world of peace and progress for us and for our children.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.